

REMARKS

Claims 11-16 and 18-23 are pending in this application. Claim 17 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 11 and 18 have been amended and claims 22 and 23 have been added.

Applicants appreciate the opportunity granted their representative to conduct a personal interview on June 4, 2004. During the course of the interview, applicants' representative discussed what are believed to be significant differences between the features of the claimed invention and the applied prior art. As indicated in the Interview Summary of record in this application, the Examiner recommend amending the claims to be more specific to certain features of the invention. In this Reply, applicants have amended independent claims 11 and 18 in a manner that is believed to be consistent with the Examiner's recommendations. At least in view of these amendments and the patentability arguments previously and currently submitted, reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 11-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Kunzman, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,054,832) in view of Hewlett, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,812,303) and applicants' admitted prior art. This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims, is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 11 is directed to a display device for displaying an image according to input image data that is digital data. The display device of claim 11 comprises: A display device for displaying an image according to input image data that is digital data, said display device comprising: a light source for producing light; light-transmitting filters for separating the light from said light source into at least four kinds of light including white light, said light-transmitting filters including a white-transmitting filter for transmitting white light and non-white transmitting filters; a light valve for projecting each kind of light from said light-transmitting filters onto a screen; said white light-transmitting filter being used to display information corresponding to lower-order bits of said digital data; a signal converter portion to control said white light-transmitting filter using a control signal corresponding to said lower-order bits; said non-white light-transmitting filters being used to display information corresponding to said higher-order bits of said digital data; and an integrated value of a transmissivity in a visible range of said white-transmitting filter is smaller than the combined integrated values of transmissivities in a visible range of said non-white transmitting filters. As amended, claim 11 specifies that the brightness created by a first gray level represented via said white light-transmitting filter is $1/2^m$ (m is the number of lower-order bits) the brightness created by a first gray level represented via said non-white light-transmitting filters.

As discussed in the Reply dated March 3, 2004, Kunzman teaches the use of a color wheel that has two clear (white) regions that cover respectively 40 degrees and 20 degrees of the color wheel. See Fig. 4. The angle of these clear regions are specifically designed to allow for overall whitening purity or brightness of the entire display image to be maintained. Thus, Kunzman teaches the use of the respective clear regions to increase the transmissivity or brightness of the white light in view of the non-white filters but fails to teach or suggest a display device having the combination of features recited in claim 1.

Neither Hewlett nor applicants' admitted prior art makes up for these deficiencies.

In view of the above, the asserted combination of Kunzman, Hewlett and applicants' admitted prior art fails to teach each and every aspect of the claimed invention of claim 11. Claim 18 defines over the asserted combination based on similar reasoning. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings (Reg. No. 48,917) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Appl. No. 09/887,665

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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0925-0184P

Attachment(s)